

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BANGKO 07593 150639 Z

15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 OMB-01 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 EUR-25 DPW-01 /141 W

----- 062788

R 160449 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3162
INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
CINCPAC

UNCLAS BANGKOK 7593

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS PFOR MARR, TH US

SUBJECT: THANOM DEFENDS U. S. MILITARY PRESENCE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. IN MAY 14 SPEECH TO THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, PRIMIN
THANOM KITTIKACHORN REFERRED TO THE " PRESENT
PRECARIOUS SITUATION" IN LOAS AND COMBODIAN AND STATED
"... SO LONG AS VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASEFIRE AND
PEACE AGREEMENTS CONTINUE TO HAMPER A SETTLEMENT IN
INDOCHINA THAILAND REGARDS IT A NECESSITY.. TO MAKE
AVAILABLE OUR MILITARY FACILITIES TO THE UNITED STATES IN
ORDER THAT THERE WILL BE STRICT OBSERVANCE OF THE
PEACE ARRANGEMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THE KHMER REPUBLIC AND
THE KINGDOM OF LAOS." PERTINENT EXCERPT FOLLOWS IN PARA 3.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 07593 150639 Z

2. THANOM'S SPEECH WAS VERY FAVORABLY RECEIVED BY ASSEMBLED CHIEFS OF MISSION, AND LAO AMBASSADOR COMMENTED TO CHARGE THAT IT WAS EXCELLENT SPEECH WHICH SETS THE RECORDS STRAIGHT"

3. BEGIN EXCERPT: IN VIEWING THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION I AM SURE THAT WE ARE ALL HEARTENED BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DIALOGUE BETWEEN NATIONS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH DIFFERENT IDEOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS. THE RIGIDITIES AND CONFRONTATION OF THE PAST ARE YIELDING TO FLEXIBILITY DETENTE AND UNDERSTANDING. UNFORTUNATELY HOWEVER, THE DIALOGUE AMONG THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE INDOCHINA CONFLICT, WHICH LATER LED TO THE AGREEMENT AND ENDORSEMENT BY THE TEN GOVERNMENTS AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN PARIS, HAS NOT YET BROUGHT ABOUT PEACE TO THE AREA.

OUR MAIN CONCERN AND ANXIETY IS OF COURSE DIRECTED TOWARDS THE FIGHTINGS WHICH ARE STILL GOING ON IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC AND THE KINGDOM OF LAOS THAT THEY MAY NOT BE CONFINED ONLY TO THE TWO MENTIONED COUNTRIES ALONE. BUT COULD FURTHER SPREAD AND LEAD TO UNFORSEEN CONSEQUENCES. WE HAVE COVINCING REASONS TO BELIEVE THAT IF LEFT ALONE AMONG THEMSELVES WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM OUTSIDE, THE KHMERS AND THE LAOS PEOPLE, WHOSE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS ARE NO MORE THAN TO LIVE IN PEACE, WILL BE SUCEESSUL IN SOLVING THEIR EXISTING PROBLEMS. AS FOR THAILAND WE WISH NOTHING FURTHER THAN THAT THE NEUTRALITY AND THE TERRITORIAL INTERGRITY OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC AND THE KINGDOM OF LAOS BE RECOGNIZED AND RESPECTED FAITHFULLY.

THAILAND FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT ALL COUNTRIES IN THIS REGION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA MUST ASSUME PRIMARY COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES IN CONTRIBUTING EFFORTS TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONDITION FOR POLITICAL STABILITY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT, AND GENUINE PEACE IN THE REGION. OUR PROPOSAL TO CONVENE A CONFERENCE OF ALL SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS IS INTENDED TO SERVE NO OTHER PURPOSE THAN THIS. IT WOULD SERVE FIRST TO REMOVE EXISTING MISUNDERSTANDING AND SUSPICIONS AND THEN PAVE THE WAY TO PRODUCTIVE AND PEACEFUL COOPERATION AMONG THE NATIONS OF

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BANGKO 07593 150639 Z

THIS REGION. FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, WE MUST BE LEFT FREE TO WORK OUT OUR OWN DESTINY.

IN THE MEAN TIME, SO LONG AS VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASEFIRE AND PEACE AGREEMENTS CONTINUE TO HAMPER A SETTLEMENT IN INDOCHINA, THAILAND REGARDS IT A NECESSITY STILL IN SPITE OF ALL THE SERIOUS DISADVANTAGES WE HAVE TO SUFFER, TO MAKE

AVAILABLE OUR MILITARY FACILITIES TO THE UNITED STATES IN ORDER THAT THERE WILL BE STRICT OBSERVANCE OF THE PEACE ARRANGMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THE KHMER REPUBLIC AND THE KINGDOM OF LAOS. WE CONSIDER THE PRESENT PRECARIOUS SITUATION IN THE TWO COUNTRIES TO DIRECTLY AFFECT THE SECURITY AND STABILITY OF THAILAND AND OF THE ENTIRE REGION. THERE IS NO DOUBT, THESE FOREIGN MILITARY PERSONNEL WILL BE WITHDRAWN WHEN THE THAI GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THEIR PRESENCE NO LONGER NECESSARY. I WISH TO MAKE IT CLEAR ONCE MORE THAT THEIR PRESENCE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SUPPRESSION OF THE INSURGENCY IN THE COUNTRY. THIS RESPONSIBILITY IS OURS AND WILL BE OURS ALONE.

IN OTHER WORDS, HOPEFUL PROSPECT OF ACQUIRING REAL PEACE MUST COME FIRST IN INDOCHINA, THEN THE WITHDRAWAL FROM THAILAND OF FOREIGN MILITARY PERSONNEL COULD BE CARRIED OUT.

BUT WE CANNOT YET REST THERE. THE NEXT STEP IS THAT ALL COUNTRIES IN THIS REGION MUST PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE CREATION OF A NEW ORDER AND CONTRIBUTE DIRECTLY TOWARDS PEACE, FREEDOM, STABILITY AND PROGRESS. TOGETHER THEY COULD MAKE THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION FREE FROM ALL DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTERFERENCE FROM OUTSIDE THE END RESULT OF WHICH WOULD BE A TENSION- FREE REGION OF STATES WHOSE FREEDOM WITH PEACE, INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY ARE SECURE.

WE ARE AS MUCH CONCERNED THAT THE GOVERNMENTS YOU REPRESENT SHOULD BE AS WELL AND AS ACCURATELY INFORMED AS POSSIBLE OF OUR POLICIES AND OUR INTENTIONS. YOU ARE HERE ON THE SPOT. YOU ARE ACQUAINTED WITH THE SITUATION IN THE REGION, YOU KNOW OUR HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS. WE ARE IN NEED OF UNDERSTANDING AND A MORAL SUPPORT FOR OUR CAUSE,
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BANGKO 07593 150639 Z

WHICH IS NOTHING MORE THAN TO BE ALLOWED TO LIVE IN PEACE AND FREEDOM AND WORK FOR THE WELFARE OF OUR PEOPLES.
END EXCERPT.
MASTERS

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KUALA LUMPUR
MANILA
PHONOM PENH
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